

Message Text

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70

ACTION FEA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /089 W

----- 060832

R 162313Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4848

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0372

EO 11652: NA.

TAGS: ENRG, AS.

SUBJ: GOA TREATMENT OF "NATIONAL" OIL COMPANIES.

REF: (A) STATE 9029.

(B) CANBERRA 8197

(C) CANBERRA A-390, DEC 22, 1972.

1. IN REPLY TO REF. A, AUSTRALIA HAS NO (PUBLIC I.E. GOVERNMENT-OWNED) OIL COMPANY, ALTHOUGH PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AUTHORITY (PMA) ESTABLISHED BY PARLIAMENT IN MID - 1974 MAY EVENTUALLY OPERATE AS ONE. MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR, ARCHITECT OF THE PMA, OBVIOUSLY INTENDS THAT IT SHOULD DO SO, AT LEAST IN EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION. PMA'S FUTURE STILL CLOUDED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF HIGH COURT CHALLENGE OF ITS CONSTITUTIONALITY BROUGHT BY NON-LABOR STATE GOVERNMENTS (REF B). THIS ISSUE UNLIKELY TO BE SETTLED BEFORE END OF 1975.

2. ONLY TWO COMPANIES OF ANY SIZE ENGAGE IN PERTOLEUM

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REFINING AND MARKETING CLAIM TO BE "LOCALLY-

OWNED", H.C. SLEIGH LTD. (PARTLY OWNED BY CALTEX) AND
AMPOL PETROLEUM LTD. (WHICH ALSO HAS SOME FOREIGN
OWNERSHIP). AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST CORPORATION, BROKEN
HILL PROPRIETARY, IS 50-50 OWNER WITH ESSO OF LARGEST DOMESTIC
OIL RESERVES IN BASS STRAIT, BUT BHP DOES NOT REFINER OR
MARKET OIL.

3. GOA DOES NOT RESERVE ANY PORTION OF DOMESTIC MARKET
FOR LOCAL COMPANIES. IN DECEMBER, 1972 (REF C),
NEWLY ELECTED PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM ANNOUNCED GOA
WOULD "STUDY" POSSIBILITY THAT FUTURE GOA PETROLEUM
PURCHASES WOULD BE FROM "AUSTRALIAN-OWNED AND CONTROLLED"
COMPANIES. NOTHING MORE ON THIS POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN
HEARD, AND GOA HAS NEVER DESIGNATED ANY COMPANIES AS
LOCALLY OWNED OR CONTROLLED.

4. GOA HAS NO RPT NO REQUIREMENTS RESERVING CERTAIN
PERCENTAGE OF CRUDE OIL OR PRODUCT IMPORTS TO NATIONALLY
CONTROLLED COMPANIES.

5. DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY FIGURES INDICATE
FY 1974 DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AVERAGED 610 THOUSAND BARRELS
PER DAY.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, POLICIES, FINANCIAL PROGRAMS, PETROLEUM RESERVES, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CANBER00372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750018-0128
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750147/aaaabpka.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION FEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 9029
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <25 Nov 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOA TREATMENT OF "NATIONAL" OIL COMPANIES.
TAGS: ENRG, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006